

Marlee Comba

12

Academy of Arts, Careers, and Technology

Nevada

What Drives You?

I can't think unless I work with my hands. Staying still is difficult, and when my body doesn't move my thoughts tend to follow in its footsteps. The mutual relationship between my mind and my hands started young, usually through fidgeting, circling my thumbs, or tracing letters on assignments, and my mind stayed clear as long as my hands didn't stop moving. When I was eight years old, I saw a documentary about ocean life, and the narrator explained how sharks can't survive without constantly moving. Suddenly sharks were a lot less scary, because we shared something in common.

My habit evolved over time, and applied itself to other hobbies. I used my hands to draw or paint, and my mind worked its way through my day. I used my hands to bake, and used my mind to study for my newfound passion for medicine that I applied at the Academy of Arts, Careers, and Technology in the medical academy. Measure two cups of sugar. An adult receives one rescue breath every six seconds. Knead the dough. Commotio Cordis is a sudden blow to the chest causing ventricular fibrillation. The relationship went both ways. Using hobbies as study tools came in handy during finals. I knew the answers through apple tarts and cinnamon rolls. The habit continued to evolve and apply itself to hobbies, sports, extracurriculars, and academics.

Hands on work became my favorite subject in school, something that tended to be consistent following a medical career path. I used my hands to practice triage, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, patient assessment, and lifesaving treatments inside the classroom and during multiple internships at Northern Nevada's Medical Center. During my high school experience, I spent over forty hours shadowing REMSA's dispatch center, Northern Nevada Medical Center, and mentoring underclassmen at my school as an EMT Education Coordinator. I have received certifications in FEMA ICS-100 and FEMA ICS-00317, building a foundation in the Incident Command System to prepare for emergency events; CPR/Basic Life Support through the American Heart Association; and am currently pursuing Emergency Medical Technician licensure in the state of Nevada. I plan to apply my skills in a future career in medicine, focusing specifically on Microbiology and Immunology during university.

I am driven by my hands. My creativity is expressed in multiple ways, but more than anything it connects me to everything that I learn. It helps me focus, stay organized, and excel in difficult subjects by connecting it to material that is much easier on the mind. My hands guide my creativity. My mind uses them to help me succeed.